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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Attorney Docket No.: 1416.04US01

REIMINK et al.

Application No.: 09/475,721

Examiner: S. Hon

Filed:

December 30, 1999

Group Art Unit: 1772

For: MEDICAL DEVICES WITH POLYMER/INORGANIC SUBSTRATE COMPOSITES

AMENDMENT

Box AF
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action of February 13, 2002, amendment to the above-identified patent application is requested. Replacement claims are presented below, and marked-up claim amendments are presented on separate sheets at the end of this Amendment.

In the Specification

Please substitute the following amended paragraph(s) and/or section(s):

At page 10, line 29-line 33:

Preferably, stent 200 has a flexibility approximating the native supporting structure of the patient's tissue. The flexibility of stent 200 can be different at different points along stent 200. Generally, ridge 212 is more rigid than flexible support 214. Preferably, heart valve stent 200 is formed from the polymer/inorganic substrate composites described herein. An inorganic substrate can be located within ridge 212 and/or flexible support 214.